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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

A total of 25 fellowships on disarmament were awarded in both 2015 and 2016. In 2015, the programme lasted from 24 August to 30 October. The 2016 programme is scheduled for 22 August to 28 October.

The programme of studies continues to be structured in three segments. The first was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva and introduced the fellows to various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament. It also included a study visit to Bern and Thun organized by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. The second segment of the programme comprised study visits to international and regional organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament, including the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the International Court of Justice. The fellows also took part in country visits at the invitation of the Governments of China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America. The third segment of the programme, which was held at Headquarters, was aimed in particular at familiarizing the fellows with the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat.

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The Secretary-General is pleased to note the contribution of the programme of fellowships on disarmament to a greater awareness of the importance of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. To date, the programme has trained 956 officials from 166 States, a large number of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament and international security with their own Governments. In addition, the Secretary-General is gratified to note that the number of women nominated as fellows has remained high during the two-year reporting period. In particular, in its continuous efforts to promote gender mainstreaming, the United Nations selected 25 women to participate in the fellowship programme in 2015-2016, which represents 50 per cent of the total number of fellowships awarded.

The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all the Member States and international organizations that have supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 69/75, entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services", the General Assembly, among other things, commended the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme had continued to be carried out and requested him to continue to implement annually the programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-first session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that mandate.

II. Programme of fellowships on disarmament

A. Fellowships for 2015 and 2016

2. A total of 25 fellowships were awarded in 2015 to the following officials:

Argentina	Estefania Porta
Bulgaria	Neli Yaroslavova Bogomilova
Burkina Faso	Charles Joseph Guibla
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Sim's Nono Simabutu Mayele
Gabon	Lia Berthiana Bouanga Ayoune
Germany	Carina Yvonne Steller
Ghana	Miriam Aba Arhin
Guatemala	Pedro Julio Gordillo Diaz
Haiti	Rose Bilenda Saint Fort
Japan	Yuki Nakata
Kazakhstan	Anar Fazylova
Lebanon	Rana El Khoury
Malawi	Loyce Merrick
Mexico	Jorge Adalberto Gonzalez Mayagoitia
Myanmar	Hnin Lai Lai San
Nepal	Surendra Thapa
Russian Federation	Vyacheslav Kosarev
Serbia	Masa Grimm
Switzerland	Dana Maria-Magdalena Komarek
Thailand	Pimchanok Jirapattanakul
Togo	Tchein Ninkabou

Turkey	Erdal Onat
United States of America	Hailey Rose Robbins
Uzbekistan	Azam Toshpulatov
Zimbabwe	Munyaradzi Amon Benedict Tumbare

3. In 2016, 25 fellowships were awarded to the following officials:

Afghanistan	Abdul Ahad Shirzad
Algeria	Mohammed Ouadah
Bahrain	Mohamed Abdulla Alnoaimi
Burundi	Nina Niyubahwe
Cameroon	Sandrine Eugénie Ebongue Makolle
Chile	Camilo Rodolfo Millanao Llopis
China	Wenwen Huang
Cuba	Claudia Morgade Donato
Ecuador	María Gabriela Espín Ordóñez
Ethiopia	Selam Nigussie Ketsela
Georgia	Giorgi Pipia
Hungary	Szilvia Balázs
India	Pawankumar Tulshidas Badhe
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Mojtaba Azizi Basati
Iraq	Hamzah Al-Sadr
Japan	Takahiro Omori
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Somsanouk Keobounsan
Liechtenstein	Simon Leuschner
Namibia	Elton Khoetage Hoeseb
Paraguay	Franz Pierre Rassl Ocampos
Republic of Moldova	Vera Tarsina
South Africa	Tsoma Harriet Satekge
United States	Michael Butera
Zambia	Constance Chuzhya Chiwende-Bellington
Holy See	Stefano Saldi

4. Over the years, the efforts made by the United Nations to promote gender mainstreaming have resulted in a steady ratio in the number of women who have been recipients of the fellowship. In 2015 and 2016, a total of 25 out of 50 fellowships were granted to women.

B. Programme of studies

5. The United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament is implemented by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. In 2015, the programme lasted from 24 August to 30 October. In 2016, the programme is scheduled for 22 August to 28 October. The programme of studies is structured in three segments: (a) activities at the United Nations Office at Geneva and at the invitation of the Government of Switzerland; (b) study visits to other Member States, at their invitation, and intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament; and (c) activities at Headquarters.

6. The programme addresses both the theory and the practice of disarmament. On the one hand, it consists of lectures, presentations, round tables, panels and other forms of group discussion with senior diplomats and officials from international organizations and representatives of academic institutions, civil society and think tanks on the disarmament machinery and key disarmament issues. On the other hand, it comprises field visits, demonstrations of on-site inspections, visits to weapons destruction facilities, nuclear reactors and scientific laboratories, research projects, simulations of multilateral negotiations and other practical exercises. The activities of the 2015 programme are summarized below. The 2016 programme will generally follow the 2015 syllabus and will contain updates to reflect recent developments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

First segment

7. The first segment of the programme was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva and at other locations in Switzerland. In addition to a general introduction to the disarmament machinery and international humanitarian law, it exposed the fellows to various aspects of multilateral work on disarmament, including potential negotiations, through the work of the Conference on Disarmament and some Geneva-based treaty regimes[1] and research institutions dealing with disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

8. The fellows received briefings and lectures by senior representatives of various Member States, the office-holders nominated to the Conference on Disarmament and other treaty regimes, representatives of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the Geneva branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, the disarmament programme of

[1] The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and its annexed protocols, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Arms Trade Treaty.

the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, "Reaching Critical Will", and the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.

9. The fellows attended plenary meetings of the Conference on Disarmament and were briefed on a wide range of issues, including the history, achievements and current challenges faced by the Conference; the content, status and operation of the Geneva-based disarmament and arms control treaties; the latest development in such fields as lethal autonomous weapons systems and cyberwarfare; and the role of non-governmental organizations in the multilateral disarmament process.

10. In addition, the fellows took part in a one-day visit to Bern and Thun organized by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, during which they were briefed on Swiss foreign and security policies, with a focus on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, challenges in the field of conventional arms control, arms control and disarmament of biological and chemical weapons, as well as prohibitions, export and export assessment under the Arms Trade Treaty. The fellows followed a manual mine clearance demonstration and live demolition of anti-personnel mines, as well as action to counter an improvised explosive device at the Nuclear Biological Chemical Centre of Competence of the Swiss armed forces in Thun. The fellows also visited Geneva City Hall at the invitation of the canton of Geneva. Similar visits are scheduled for the 2016 programme.

11. While in Geneva, the fellows were also required to conduct research and to present the outlines of a paper on a topic of their choice relating to disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and international security.

Second segment

12. The second segment of the programme comprised study visits to several intergovernmental organizations: the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the International Court of Justice in The Hague and the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna. This segment of the programme also included country study visits to Member States, at their invitation.

13. At OPCW, the fellows were briefed on the origins, operation and status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, its verification procedures and implementation at the national level, on various aspects of the work of OPCW and its contributions to disarmament and non-proliferation efforts and to promoting international cooperation and assistance. They heard presentations on the work of OPCW in the elimination of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, including through the joint United Nations-OPCW mission. Also part of the programme was a visit to the OPCW laboratory and equipment store in Rijswijk and a demonstration of equipment and of an on-site inspection.

14. The study visit to the International Court of Justice exposed the fellows to the origins and the functioning of the Court. They were briefed on the procedures and jurisdiction of the Court on cases relating to nuclear weapons and on its advisory opinion on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

15. During the visit to the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the fellows received comprehensive

briefings on the origins and status of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the continuing efforts towards universalization and the entry into force of the Treaty, and the work of the Preparatory Commission and the structure of the international monitoring system. They were briefed on the functioning of the verification regime and its civil and scientific applications and on the Integrated Field Exercise in 2014, and took part in a simulation of an on-site inspection.

16. The study visit to IAEA comprised briefings on the international legal framework and the implementation of the Agency safeguards system, the safety and security of nuclear materials and radioactive sources and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. A visit to the IAEA laboratories in Seibersdorf and the safeguards equipment laboratory at the Vienna International Centre was also included.

17. While in Vienna, the fellows were briefed on the functioning of several export control regimes, such as the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, the Nuclear Suppliers Group/Zangger Committee and visited the OSCE secretariat where they were briefed on the involvement of OSCE in arms control and maintaining security and cooperation in Europe and beyond.

18. The fellows were also updated on the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, space law and the Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space by representatives of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

19. The fellows were also briefed on the strategic arms talks and agreements between the United States and the Russian Federation and on the safety and security of nuclear materials by representatives of the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation and took part in a round table organized by the Center on the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

20. The fellows also received briefings on the priorities of the Government of Austria in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation and the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons at the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs and on the disarmament and international security priorities of the European Union by the representative of the European Union in Vienna.

21. In 2015, the Governments of China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan and the United States continued the established practice of inviting participants in the fellowship programme to visit their national institutions and to attend lectures on national policies and priorities in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control given by government officials. In 2016, the Governments of China, Germany, Japan and the Republic of Korea (for the first time) have extended similar invitations.[2]

22. The study visit to Germany in 2015 included briefings by representatives of the Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry of Defence and the Robert Koch Institute on a wide range of disarmament and non-proliferation issues. The fellows also visited Nammo Buck in Pinnow, a plant used for the demilitarization of ammunition, projectiles, rockets, mines, grenades, fuses and pyrotechnical material.

[2] As at 16 June 2016.

During the visit, the fellows were briefed on environmentally friendly and safe disposal processes for conventional weapons, ammunition and explosive products and observed the destruction of cluster munitions. The study visit to Germany in 2016 will include similar activities.

23. The study visit to China included briefings by officers of the Department of Arms Control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by representatives of the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association on key disarmament and non-proliferation issues. The fellows also visited Sina Network Technology (China). The study visit to China in 2016 will include similar activities.

24. The study visit to Kazakhstan included a visit to the former nuclear weapons test site in Semipalatinsk and to the thermonuclear fusion reactor in the city of Kurchatov. The fellows also received briefings by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the policy and initiatives of Kazakhstan in the fields of disarmament, in particular on nuclear disarmament issues. They visited the Nuclear Society of Kazakhstan and the museum on in the grounds of the Institute of Radiation Safety and Ecology.

25. The Government of Japan and the municipalities of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki again organized activities for the recipients of the disarmament fellowship in 2015. In Tokyo, the fellows were briefed by officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan Mine Action Service and by the Director of the Centre for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. In Hiroshima, the fellows visited the Peace Memorial Museum, the Atomic Bomb Dome and the National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims. They were briefed by representatives of Hiroshima city and Mayors for Peace and heard the testimony of a survivor of the atomic bombing. In Nagasaki, the fellows visited the Atomic Bomb Hypocenter and the Atomic Bomb Museum, the National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, Nagasaki Peace Park and the Nagai Tashika Memorial Museum. They also met survivors of the atomic bombings and scholars and doctors involved in the study of the impact of the bombings and their victims. The study visit to Japan in 2016 will include similar activities.

26. The study visit to Washington, D.C. included briefings by senior officials from the Department of State, the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance and the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, the Department of Defense, the Senate Committee on Armed Services, the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Brookings Institution. They also visited the Nuclear Risk Reduction Center at the Department of State.

27. The study visit to the Republic of Korea in 2016 is the first in the history of the programme.

Third segment

28. The third segment of the programme is held at Headquarters and is intended to familiarize the fellows with key disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation issues, as well as with the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the mandate and activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. In 2015, this segment of the programme included a panel on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation with the participation of senior diplomats and briefings and

lectures by senior staff of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, including the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, senior diplomats and representatives of civil society and academic institutions on a range of subjects, including nuclear doctrines and approaches, the functioning of the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its review process, the responsibilities and activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, items included on the agenda of the First Committee and multilateral diplomacy and decision-making within the United Nations. The fellows regularly attended meetings of the First Committee, as well as the joint meeting of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to outer space security and sustainability.

29. In addition, while in New York, the fellows took part in a simulated negotiation exercise in the context of an open-ended working group. The exercise included negotiations on effective legal measures for the full implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, coordination of group positions and the introduction and consideration of an outcome document. During the segment, the fellows finalized their research papers and made presentations on the key findings.

30. At the end of the programme, the fellows were awarded certificates of participation by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and the Chair of the First Committee.

III. Conclusion

31. Launched in 1979 in follow-up to a decision of the General Assembly taken at its tenth special session, in 1978, the United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament is aimed at promoting expertise in disarmament in Member States, especially in developing countries. During its 37 years of operation, the programme has trained 956 officials from 166 States. Many alumni hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament, including senior positions, within their own Governments and their permanent missions to the United Nations. The large number of nominations for the programme received every year by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the broad support for the biennial resolution on the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services is testimony to the undiminished interest of Governments in the programme. At the same time, the role of the programme in enhancing the capabilities of young diplomats for participation in disarmament deliberations and negotiations is well recognized and appreciated.

32. The Secretary-General is pleased to note the contribution of the programme of fellowships on disarmament towards a greater awareness of the importance of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The programme continues to play a decisive role in facilitating a better understanding of the functioning of the United Nations disarmament machinery and of the other institutions working in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control at the global and regional level, as well as of international security. In addition, the Secretary-General is gratified to note that the number of women nominated has remained high during the reporting period.

33. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to all States and organizations that have supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its

success. He extends his particular appreciation to the Governments of China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the United States for their continued support for the programme. The Secretary-General also extends his grateful recognition to IAEA, the International Court of Justice, OPCW, OSCE and the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for their support for the programme.